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American Sailors for American Ships.

Memphis and all other large cities of the land are familiar with the recruiting campaigns designed to secure American youths for service on American ships.

Our merchant marine is second only to that of Great Britain. But it is manned by crews that are still more than 50 per cent foreign. Before we entered the great war less than 10 per cent of the crews of American-owned ships were American-born.

The war was had to get busy and build a huge merchant marine at a rate never before imagined, and we had to improvise on short notice the crews to man them. The success of the shipping board in this latter task was beyond all praise.

Young America became reacquainted with the sea. It saved the old time when the Stars and Stripes floated in every foreign port and when Yankee sailors were admittedly the salt of the sea.

But today they are getting out of the merchant navy because it does not give them the promotion they are entitled to, and the promotion they can expect in any dry land occupation.

In his continued story of the American merchant marine Ralph Paine, in *World's Work*, finds that the trouble is in one of the provisions of the otherwise enlightened seamen's act of 1915, by which the apprentice to the sea is compelled to serve three years as an ordinary seaman before he can become a deck officer.

It is a provision worded and pressed by the International Seamen's union for the protection of the great majority of sailors in every foreign port and when the rule of apprenticeship is a hard and fast rule that works injustice with every case of special merit.

The provision is antiquated anyway in this day of steamships. There is less for a sailor to learn about a ship than there was when ships spread their sails in the wind. When an attempt was made before the last congress to change this provision, shipper after shipper came and testified that American boys could learn the art of being accomplished sailors in a year's time. The master of the *Coloma* stated:

"I am about to start on a voyage to the United Kingdom and to the West Indies. At the end of this voyage I expect that the boys who go with me will be as good seamen as ever trod a deck."

Since the commissioning of officers is a thing apart from the interests of politicians and labor unions, it is actually possible for a smart young American to become an officer in one-third of the time it would take him to become an able seaman.

The conditions of living and the remuneration are good enough now to fill the ships with American boys, but there will have to be an American rule of merit rather than of priority before they will consent to go down to the sea in ships. They want to know that foreigners are legally protected against the competition of their superior wits and bodies.

After Babler.

After Babler comes Goltra, both of Missouri.

The senatorial investigating committee that uncovered scandal in the case of the Lowden Missouri campaign and now in the case of the Democratic prevention campaign is in adjournment for two or three weeks, but promises to get back on its feet and then it reconvenes to look further into the Goltra business in Missouri.

There was no doubt about the facts in the Babler case. Babler was a national Republican committeeman and in the name of Lowden's campaign he turned over his money to the convention delegates from Missouri. They took it with the innocence of children in such cases as not knowing what it was for.

If there was one thing more than another that kept Lowden out of the Republican presidential nomination it was the Missouri scandal that the senatorial committee uncovered at the psychological moment. His benchmark had gone too far in his interests, and he was further than he had been instructed to go. National committeeman Babler was disgraced, but not retired. Lowden was defeated.

The idea that the doubtful campaign activities of the reason were confined to one party was a quaint one. For there was Goltra, the crooked Democrat to stand on the carpet. They must have a hearing, of course. But from this distance the facts look strangely like a pocket edition of the Republican affair. Goltra distributed his thousands. He gave \$150 apiece to the delegates to the state convention, but like Babler he did not know what it was for. The innocent delegates supposed the money had come down from heaven, and took it without a question, not even asking whether Mr. Goltra was still for Palmer.

Mr. McCado is known to be a man fertile in expedients, and he has delivered himself of one at this juncture that will bear looking into. The campaign expenses of candidates, as far as they are legitimate, ought to be borne by the public treasury. Then it would not be necessary for a candidate to embarrass himself seeking out wealthy men to finance his interests and appealing sometimes to motives quite other than patriotism.

The expenses of delegates to conventions are necessary expenses. Conventions are a part of the political system of this country, though not all

Public Discussion

THE TRIBUNE OF HIS PEOPLE.

To The News Scimitar:

I write to express to you my thanks and those of thousands of others of my race for the honor you conferred on one of our fellow negroes, Rev. E. D. Griggs, in suggesting that a park for the colored people of Memphis be named for him.

I am a pastor of a church here of 1400 members and have held this position for 31 years. I am an honorary member of the West Tennessee Baptist association, and was its active moderator for 16 years. I am now chairman of the board of trustees of the Memphis Institute. I mention these things to you may see that I have been in a position to know the needs of my race and to form judgment on what leaders have been working for their good and in a sensible way.

I have known and watched Rev. E. D. Griggs for 21 years. In my opinion no negro that ever lived has had a greater love for his people. He has never worked harder for the uplift of his race than he has during the years that he lived in Nashville, Tenn. He was a tireless worker for his people. The one fault that his friends have found of him has been that he has been too far in making sacrifices for the good of his race and has not been as considerate of himself as he should have been.

I have heard Dr. Griggs speak in the North and in the South, in public gatherings and private meetings, and I have had many long private talks with him. There are two principal things he is trying to do. First, he is trying to bring about the improvement of his race in every possible way. He has been interested in every subject that has to do with the betterment of his race, and he has been working for it with all his might and energy.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Why are the Dead Sea and Red Sea called "Dead" and "Red"?

A—The Dead Sea is so-called because it is a salt lake and contains no life. The Red Sea was named after the blood that was shed on its shores.

Q—How fast should the pulse beat?

A—The pulse should gradually slow down through life. A newborn infant has a pulse of 130 to 140 beats per minute. A healthy adult's pulse ranges from 70 to 80 beats per minute.

Q—What was the "Bonfire of Vanities"?

A—In 1497, at Florence, Italy, Savonarola, an Italian monk and martyr, ordered a bonfire at which he burned books, masks, and other things that he considered vain and worldly.

Q—What is a keno game?

A—A keno is a form of lotto used in gambling, in which numbered balls are taken one by one from the spout of a receptacle called a keno goose.

Q—How much do the tusks of elephants weigh?

A—An average tusk weighs about 60 pounds, but some are found weighing as much as 100 pounds.

Q—How long does it take a postman to pay you for a money order that has been lost?

A—The postman should be paid within 30 days after the money order is issued. If it is not paid within that time, the order is considered void.

Q—Has anyone ever succeeded in swimming the English channel?

A—Capt. Matthew Webb in 1876 succeeded in swimming from Dover to Calais in 21 hours and 45 minutes. On August 1, 1911, Thomas William Burgess, an Englishman, swam from Paris to Calais in 24 hours and 35 minutes.

Q—Do snakes charm birds?

A—The bureau of biological surveys states that snakes do not charm birds. The birds are attracted to the snakes by the smell of their blood.

Q—What are the prospects for a commercial crop of apples?

A—The June 1 condition of apples forecasts a commercial crop of 30,000,000 bushels, or about 10 per cent more than the 1919 crop, and an increase of about 6,000,000 over the 1918 crop.

Q—Why are so many people married in June?

A—In the time of ancient Rome, June was the month of marriage. It was the month of the goddess Juno, and the month of the birth of the god Mars.

Q—What are the small, one-story houses erected by the British government in India?

A—These are called "bungalows." They are small, one-story houses with a thatched roof, and are usually built for the British government in India.

Q—How can water and soap be removed from clothes?

A—Hot water and soap and thorough rubbing are the best way to remove water and soap from clothes. It is also helpful to use a brush or a scrubber.

Q—What causes earthquakes?

A—The origin of earthquakes has been a matter of debate for many years. It is generally believed that they are caused by the movement of the earth's crust.

Q—When the planting of crops is so late, how can the crops be raised?

A—In the past 37 years, only four times has the planting of crops been so late. It is generally believed that the crops will be raised by the use of fertilizers and other methods.

Q—What is the origin of the word "bachelor"?

A—The word "bachelor" is derived from the Old French word "bachelier," which means a knight or a warrior.

Q—What is the origin of the word "labor"?

A—The word "labor" is derived from the Latin word "laborare," which means to work or to toil.

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